



UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT LITTLE ROCK

**Faculty Senate Meeting**

*Friday, March 11, 2011, 1:00 p.m.  
Ross Hall 122*

MINUTES

*Present: CAHSS—* Amrhein, Anson, Bailey, Clausen, English, Estes, Garnett, Giammo, Groesbeck, Kleine, Vinikas, Yoder. *CB—* Edison, Funk, Nickels, Watts. *CE—* Hayn, Hughes, Kuykendal, Nolen. *CEIT—* Babiceanu, Jovanovic, Tebbets, Tramel. *LAW—* Aiyetoro. *LIBRARY—* Russ. *CPS—* Barnes, Collier-Tenison, Driskill, Golden, Rhodes, Robertson, Smith-Olinde. *CSM—* Douglas, Guellich, McMillan, Scott, Sims, Tarasenko, Thompson, Wright, Yanoviak. *EX OFFICIO—* Anderson, Eshleman, Faust, Ford.

*Guests Present:* Daryl Rice, Steve McClellan, Gina Fiedler, Laura Mc Carty.

*Absent: CAHSS—* Chapman, Deiser. *CB – . CE—* McAdams . *CEIT—* Anderson, Tschumi. *LAW --* Fitzhugh, Goldner. *CPS – . CSM—* Seigar. *EX OFFICIO—* Belcher, Patterson, Lewis.

*I. Welcome and roll call*

President Eshleman welcomed the senators at 1:04 p.m. and invited the secretary to call the roll.

*II. Review of minutes*

The minutes of the January 28, 2011, meeting of the Senate were reviewed. President Eshleman commented that the attachments should also have been sent with the minutes, but were sent later.

Robertson moved and Aiyetoro seconded that the minutes be accepted as amended. Motion passed on a voice vote.

*III. Announcements*

President Eshleman reported several items:

1. We are working behind the scenes on legislation concerning benefits for domestic partners of UALR employees. We hope to bring a recommendation for discussion next month and possible vote the following month.

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2. We are tracking a legislative bill on the funding formula. We hope to know more by the next meeting; if the bill passes, we may want to consider a change in our policy on when students can withdraw from classes with a grade of W.
3. President Eshleman announced that he will not fill out the second year of his term. He has accepted a position at the University of Portland (Oregon). We don't think the constitution addresses this case. It will be necessary to have a special election at the spring assembly meeting.

#### *IV. Introduction of new topics*

Eshleman opened the floor for senators to bring up items that need to come to the Senate's attention.

Edison had two one-minute topics. (1) Wang Chao, International Student Advisor in the Office of International Services will facilitate a panel discussion (part of the new Visa Discussion series) on opportunities for international students after graduation on Wednesday, March 30, 12pm – 2pm in room 142 (auditorium) of the new EIT building. The panel will include representatives from industry and non-profit organizations. International students and faculty who know of international students who want to stay here past their student visas should attend. (2) ATLE (Academy for Teaching and Learning Excellence) has been increasing the number of attendees at events and is looking to expand further. Be on the lookout for a special event April 5 and 6, with a speaker from Western Governors University on the topic of online education. An announcement will be published soon.

#### *V. Reports*

##### *A. Provost's Report*

Provost Belcher could not be present but Daryl Rice reported on his behalf. Rice is wearing a new hat, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Success, a position that came out of Provost Belcher's task force on student success and was motivated by concerns about UALR's low graduation rates as published by IPEDS [Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System]. The IPEDS information about graduation rates is available to students and parents filling out the FAFSA and sometimes that number looks so bad -- presumably, it influences opinions about UALR or decisions to apply here. It appears that the formula funding in the future will not be based on IPEDS graduation rates, but increasing our numbers of graduates is essential in any case. Rice gave a brief run-down of "How I View this Job." Many good things are going on: a new Summer Bridge program for statistics (Estes), Supplemental Instruction; Steve McClellan's efforts on behalf of Financial Literacy – we want to get in on the front end, prevent problems before they start. Rice wants to advocate, cut red tape, help coordinate efforts, bring focus, set priorities, and get things implemented. The Retention Committee made recommendations for some restructuring. The Office of Academic Advising, which now reports to VC Donaldson, will report to the Provost through Rice. Advisors are encouraged to use intrusive advising, an intervention that is known to improve retention. The Office of Transfer Student Services will also report to the Provost through Rice; ditto the Office of Cooperative Education. These structural changes reflect an effort to bring more focus. Rice began his new job on January 1, 2011, and is still Associate Dean of AHSS; the plan is for him to phase out as Associate Dean. So far, he has been focusing on:

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- Implementation of reorganization (too boring to report).
- Budget hearings. Rice presented budget requests that were mostly related to getting students into the colleges for advising earlier (easy to say, hard to do); his goal is to get the resources that the colleges need in order to be able to advise more students early. If faculty members are going to advise more, we need to figure out how that works with 9-month contracts. Rice also asked for funding to continue the innovation fund that we had this year – probably it won't be possible to do this every year but for now, we need to figure out what works at UALR; then eventually roll funding into initiatives that give a payoff. He also asked for funds for faculty development in order to offer training, for example, on what academic advising should be.
- Rice made a pitch for a student success symposium that ADE and PTC are offering at UCA March 30-31, 2011. He has funding to pay for a limited number of registrations. Check it out at <http://www.arkansasstudentsuccess.org/> Rice attended this event last year and found it very useful; also eye-opening with respect to who attends these events – last year 80% of the program pertained to the classroom, but 90% of those attending were from Educational and Student Services.
- Implementation of the FYC requirement – based on last year, 926 students will have to take a FYC class. A few specialized courses that will take up some seats have been approved but at least for next year, PEAW 1300 The First Year Experience will have to meet much of the need. We must figure out how to staff enough sections. Send ideas to Rice, anything that you think might help. “I don't have a magic wand, can't do this alone.”

Jovanovic: Do we have a model that will help us predict who will graduate?

Rice: No, that's the next thing I want to work on. Remember though that our student body is changing because we now admit fewer remedial students. “There's lots of data but it's all scattered – it's high on my priorities to figure some of this out.”

Jovanovic: If we could predict, then we could limit the students who are not predicted to succeed to 11 hours and they wouldn't be counted in the non-success.

Rice: Ding! (laughter) But seriously, the statistics are a problem for public relations – Deborah Baldwin gets this a lot. Parents call Tammy Harrison in Financial Aid about the graduation rate. Managing that first-time full-time cohort will be important but not our sole focus.

Douglas: Are we at the end of that phase-in process?

Rice: I honestly don't know. But if we only admit students with high ACT scores, we'd better start looking for jobs. We are always going to get underprepared students.

Jovanovic: What about requiring incoming freshmen to declare a major?

Rice: That's part of the details of this process – we are trying to get a handle on when is a good time to require them to declare. I'm working on a proposal for earlier declaration of the major. If students hit, e.g., 30 hours and haven't declared, is that the time to require it? “I'm working on this kind of detail.”

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Eshleman commented that the draft Strategic Plan contains wording about declaration of major too.

### *B. Chancellor's Report*

Chancellor Anderson began by thanking senators for serving, it's important work. Turning to Eshleman, he commented that it's with mixed feelings that you hear a fine faculty member is leaving. He has been a good Senate president. "The University of Portland's gain is our loss." Edison's reports about ATLE are more evidence that a university is a rich intellectual environment. The Chancellor was pleased to hear Rice's report. "He's going to have an impact, everyone who has worked with him knows this." We really need to run faster because of the changes in our environment out there.

The Chancellor said he didn't have a long list of things to report. He attended the pep rally to celebrate the two basketball teams' wins – a special moment in UALR history. "I think our women's team will be a perennial contender in the Sun Belt conference, and it was a near miraculous win for the men." The Athletic program is well run, the coaches are good human beings interested in academic success of the athletes as well as in athletics. This is something we can be proud of. The example now in the country is Boise State, a university much like UALR. Not too many years ago, almost no one knew about them, but because of the success of their football program, people all over the US know about them now.

On the State Scene, the most significant event is that Dr. Jim Purcell has resigned his position and moved to Louisiana. "I regret that; I had much respect for him, and regret that it happened on such a short time frame." His departure will surely be consequential for us (we can't predict how). Sean Broadway is the interim. "We'll be working through the adjustment."

On the legislative front, there seems to be kind of a lull right now. We are following a piece of legislation from Senator Roebuck about transfer students, but we are not sure how it will come out. There are always "shell" bills that don't have much content that are filed in time to meet the deadline but you don't know how they'll turn out.

The most important legislation has to do with tax cuts; we may be able to get through the rest of the session without further tax cuts.

On campus, there is a good number of searches going on. The EIT dean search is in the home stretch (4 candidates were on campus). The search for the Director of the new Institute on Race and Ethnicity is about to move into the home stretch; candidates will be coming to campus soon.

Brace yourselves for the rush to finish everything before Commencement.

Questions? There were none.

### *C. Report on Results of the New Confirmation Process: Steve McClellan*

Steve McClellan, Vice Chancellor for Finance, thanked the senators for having him here to report on the new confirmation process. "We feel that it's been a successful project." He worked with Gina Fielder in the Bursar's office, who been here 20 years, and Laura McCarty in Student Accounts. The Office of Finance and Administration wants to contribute to student success. "Our

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vision as we try to move forward is to help students to be financially successful.” The aim was to deal with collecting money on the front end. In the past, we had such an easy process that some students just didn’t get around to paying. UALR’s bad debt that we had to write off was huge; and we were sending hundreds of students to collection agencies. A student that started out owing \$2700 but didn’t pay would end up with fees and owing \$3600. The lesson on the front end is: If you’re going to come to college, you have to be able to pay for it. We spent probably as much time developing a communication system as the solution to the problem. We had 99% of students using it successfully the first time, that’s pretty good.

When students log in, they get a pop-up reminding them of the need to confirm. Students had to confirm that they were told all this information – all the things students used to claim they didn’t know (FAQs, sort of). Students also get a message thanking them for confirming. When students get a message telling them they need to pay, they click on a hot link that takes them to their account and they can either pay or choose a payment plan. A limitation of software is that when you leave the BOSS world and go to Accounts, you can’t then jump back into BOSS, you have to exit and sign in again.

Is it working? Yes, we’re proud of it. In the fall, 99.8% confirmed successfully (in the fall, you just had to confirm). In spring, 99.2% managed it successfully. Of the .08% who didn’t, many didn’t want to go here (changed their minds, or lost financial aid). In spring, we had a 79% decrease in amount of late fees we assessed. More students signed up for deferred payment plans. We think this shows we are moving toward making students more financially literate. McClellan cited his own daughter as an example of a student who has absorbed “about as much financial literacy as she’s made to.”

Tramel: Had one student who paid but didn’t confirm and one who had a change check coming and didn’t confirm.

McClellan: The process is supposed to check – but the lesson is, if the student had aid coming, he still has to confirm; with financial aid, “we consider it zero until you confirm.” The glitch with the student who had paid – “that should not have happened.”

Jovanovic: I don’t like the dates for confirmation – why are they so late? Why can’t you confirm earlier in the process?

McClellan: If I allow a student to confirm early, and they lose their financial aid, then we are right back where we were before.

Jennings: I have a problem with the email confirmation process . . . it doesn’t work.

McClellan: We have tracked this up and down. Every time we sent the email out, there was a hop in the number of responses; students were receiving the message.

Jennings: But students will tweet, text, etc., rather than use email.

McClellan: But now, the most normal process used for billing is email.

Edison: We send students too many emails and they don’t read them, it’s overload.

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McClellan: It's hard to control who sends students emails. We were allowed to use the RAVE system to communicate . . .

Edison: What about texting? We do inclement weather that way. With email, you're pushing a rope here.

McClellan: Right now, you must opt in to receive messages by text. We are thinking of having only an opt-out version. If I send you a text and you opt out of texting, we're again back where we were. Students have to give me permission to send text messages. – Just remember, we had nothing 14 months ago.

Aiyetoro: Was there a problem with students not responding to emails?

McClellan: We had to find a stable form of communication.

Douglas: Each semester I have one or two students who sign up and do not attend. Is there a way to identify them? Can we confirm which ones are on financial aid?

McClellan: The closer we put that confirmation date to the start of the new semester, the less error we will have. If the confirmation date is too early, it is less accurate – students may be OK in their semester at that time, planning to continue but then lose aid, or decide not to attend. . . .

#### *D. Report from the Academic Calendar Committee: Laura Smith-Olinde*

Smith-Olinde: The first version is the traditional calendar. The others are new. They are not for a vote yet. One new version proposes a fall break (October 13 + 14); the semester would begin one day earlier, on a Wednesday, to make this possible. The other new version is to simply give the whole Wednesday off before Thanksgiving and here too we start the fall semester on a Wednesday.

Robertson: An argument against the latter: if you have Wednesday off, students will also take Tuesday and Monday.

Groesbeck: Won't we lose a Monday if we have a Fall break (Smith-Olinde: yes), and Rolf why do we turn in grades on December 19?

Douglas: If we went later, we've have to turn in grades on Christmas Eve.

Jovanovic: Other universities do it and we can do it too.

Giammo: I think it's easier to hold students to be here on Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving if we give them Wednesday off.

Groesbeck: I support giving exams the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

Garnett: Thanksgiving is too late; would rather have a fall break in October than extend Thanksgiving.

Douglas: It's real important for classes that only meet one day a week to have that Monday.

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Driskill: The logic is not just students wanting the day off, it's students wanting to travel; did the group talk about doing both?

Smith-Olinde: It comes down to: how far can we back up the start date of the semester, given contract start dates?

Thompson: We have to request slots for students who do internships at hospitals – we would have to push more hours into other weeks. If students had to do two weeks of 12-hour clinicals they would choose to not have the break. They have two six-hour days currently, if we took a week off one of those, the State Board still requires 90 hours and the students have to get the hours in.

Barnes: How do you do it with spring break?

Thompson: We have to put those hours in. We have different classes then.

Robertson: In favor of a fall break as a real fall break.

Smith-Olinde: Can we take a straw vote if you are in favor of fall break raise your hands (a majority of those present favored a fall break).

Clea Bunch: Will there be a poll of the students to see what they think?

Smith-Olinde: We have student reps on the calendar committee.

### *E. Undergraduate Council—Jeanette Clausen, chair*

Since the last meeting of the Senate on January 28, 2011, the UGC has met four times, with rather short agendas. The new courses and course and program changes we have approved are for the most part routine, proposed with the aim of course/program improvement, facilitating student progress through program requirements, and increasing options for students. A few specifics are:

- CJ: changing the A.A. in Law Enforcement to an A.S. in Law Enforcement, to align with a change in ADHE requirements for A.A. degrees;
- COE: the additional of eligibility requirements and clarification of prerequisites for the Fast Track of the Secondary Education minor;
- COB: expanding the elective options for the Human Resource Management minor; adding a new course (graduate/undergraduate) in Sustainable Business; and adding a FYC course, BSAD 1300 Discovering Business
- AHSS: a new course in Geography (Intro to Geotechnologies);
- AHSS: Program change: change the BA in French, BA in German Studies, and BA in Spanish to BA in World Languages: French, BA in World Languages: German Studies, and BA in World Language: Spanish.
- We have also discussed several implementation issues concerning the FYC requirement, but have no new recommendations concerning the FYC at this time.

Kathy Oliverio previewed for us an online Curriculum Change Form she is creating. The online form can be completed, changed or corrected if necessary, and routed electronically. The idea is

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to increase usability, efficiency, and catalog accuracy, since Kathy will be able to load the information from the CCF's directly into the online catalog. In addition, it will be much easier track information as to when exactly a change was made than it is now, with a great many paper records stored in file cabinets or boxes. There are still some logistical issues to be addressed. The topic will be brought to the college curriculum committees, associate deans, and deans for input.

UGC expects to be very busy for the rest of the semester, with the proposal for the BFA in Art next week, numerous course changes related to that BFA proposal, and other new courses and course changes from various departments.

*E. Graduate Council—Steve Jennings, chair.*

1. The Graduate Council approved new PhD program in Engineering Science and Systems
2. The Graduate Council revised the Scholastic Standards policy (see <http://ualr.edu/graduatecouncil/uploads/2011/03/Scholastic%20Standards.pdf>)
3. The Graduate Council will be reviewing current policies on Graduate School Admissions; Graduate School Short-Term, Off-Campus, and Distance Education Courses; and Undergraduate Tuition Rates for Graduate Students this month.
4. The Graduate Council is also talking with Grad School on how GPAs are calculated for new applicants; currently it's just from the school from which the student graduated and may not include all transfer credit.
5. Grad Dean is trying to get GAs some medical insurance
6. The Graduate Council and Grad School are awaiting further direction from the state legislature on how to handle incomplete, in-progress, etc., grades so that it doesn't hurt UALR financially due to the funding formula being tied to course completions.

Robertson: Have a question about graduate admission standards – conversations have taken place about building greater flexibility into that.

Jennings: We are going talk about this whole topic next Wednesday at the Grad Council meeting. It would be helpful if students would apply to the grad school first. "You can come to the meeting if you want to."

Jovanovic: Has there been some discussion of graduate faculty status?

Jennings: Anything you heard is way, way premature; we have not gotten our committee back to seriously considering that. There is definitely some strong interest at the Graduate Council about addressing this issue; there have been some concerns about people being generally qualified to mentor graduate students. If we make any recommendations it would definitely come to the Senate.

Jovanovic: Do we have a policy about 4000-level classes meeting in the same room with 7000-level classes?



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Jennings: I was given a list of policies to review and don't recall that one but we are just now getting to that [list of policies]. Is it something to be debated?

Jovanovic: I just wanted to know if there is a policy.

Jennings: Have you heard of this?

Jovanovic:: It is happening

*VI. New Business: Senator Adjoa Aiyetoro, Motion for a Consent Agenda*

Aiyetoro: Withdraws the motion; will bring it back next month.

See Attachment: FacultySenateConsent\_Agenda2motion.

Eshleman invited comments. There were none.

*VII. Open Forum*

Aiyetoro: What is status of the committee looking at the makeup of faculty and hiring patterns the last 10 years?

Eshleman will check back with them.

*VII. Adjourn*

The meeting adjourned at 2:58 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Jeanette Clausen, Secretary

Motion

**The Faculty Senate shall implement a consent agenda motion to approve actions of the Graduate and Undergraduate Councils. All actions of either Council will be placed in a single motion on the Faculty Senate agenda. At the time the motion is placed on the floor or in advance by notifying the presiding officer, any senator may request that an item in the motion be removed from the consent agenda thus placing the item as a regular motion on the agenda. There shall be no debate on the consent agenda motion.**

**The Constitution of the University Assembly, Article III, Faculty Senate, has the same provision for Faculty Senate review for both the Graduate Council and Undergraduate Council. The language that would be amended for both Councils now states:**

**Recommendations of the Graduate Council (Undergraduate Council) are subject to review by the Faculty Senate upon decision of the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate or upon petition signed by five or more senators and delivered to the president of the Faculty Senate within ten (10) calendar days of passage by the Graduate Council.**

**This language would be modified to state:**

**Recommendations of the Graduate Council (Undergraduate Council) are subject to review by the Faculty Senate. The Graduate (Undergraduate) Council will submit a consent agenda motion for the Faculty Senate Agenda for recommended actions. The consent agenda motion shall not be debated. However, a senator may request that an item be removed from the consent agenda motion, making it subject to floor debate.**

Commentary: This motion was developed pursuant to discussion in the January 2011 Faculty Senate meeting in which the Graduate Council Chairperson asked for direction on how to bring matters to the Faculty Senate's attention. Some of the Senators recalled that in the past the Councils had presented recommendations to the Senate as a form of notification, yet providing Senators the opportunity to discuss any recommendations that raised some concern. The purpose of the motion is to formalize this procedure to ensure that Senators are apprised of actions by either Council that affect the curriculum or matters otherwise appropriate for Faculty Senate review.